



USAID | UKRAINE

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

COMBATING HIV/AIDS



Photo: Elena Shevchenko

IRD volunteers at a World AIDS Memorial Day street campaign in Crimea, May 21, 2006

THE CHALLENGE

Ukraine has the most severe HIV/AIDS epidemic in Eastern Europe & Central Asia, with an estimated 440,000 people living with HIV and an adult prevalence rate of 1.63%. As of January 2009, the Ukrainian Ministry of Health had registered more than 141,277 cases.

With rapid growth in new cases, including increases in heterosexual transmission, there is a credible risk that within the next five years, Ukraine's concentrated HIV/AIDS epidemic will develop into a generalized epidemic, sustained by new infections in the general population. It is estimated that by 2014, 3.5% of the Ukraine's adult population, or 820,000 people, may be living with HIV.

OVERVIEW

The Government of Ukraine (GOU) has articulated its increased commitment to addressing the HIV/AIDS epidemic, a U.S. Government (USG) health priority.

To fulfill its commitment to investing in people, USAID partnered with Ukraine to improve the overall health of Ukrainians. To date, USAID efforts have increased availability and improved effectiveness of health services, assisted Ukrainians to become better informed about health issues, and enhanced GOU capacity to provide quality services in family planning and reproductive health (FP/RH), maternal and infant health, HIV/AIDS and TB. Concurrently, USAID supports development of a civil society that collaborates with government to further expand access to quality services and advocates for more transparent health management.

OUR PROGRAMS

HIV/AIDS

USAID continues to provide support to reduce the transmission and impact of HIV/AIDS through: 1) promotion and adoption of preventive behaviors; 2) expansion of access to quality HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support services for most-at-risk populations; 3) development of public and nongovernmental (NGO) institutional capacities to plan, manage and evaluate HIV/AIDS programs; 4) implementation of approaches to address the needs of vulnerable children and youth such as street children; and 5) strengthening the policy environment for HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support. Through early 2009, USAID also supported a *Ukrainian Media Partnership* aimed at improving awareness of HIV/AIDS among the general population and specific target groups such as youth, injecting drug users and other vulnerable populations. In implementing program activities, USAID programs strengthen collaboration between local governmental departments, NGOs and communities in high priority regions.

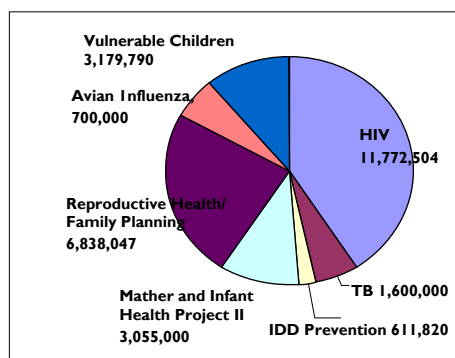
In 2008, to address the particular needs of HIV-positive injecting drug users, USAID initiated a pilot program of methadone-based Medication Assisted Treatment to develop models of integrated treatment, care and support for broader replication throughout Ukraine.

USAID programs leverage Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) grant resources by providing technical and management support to organizations implementing GFATM-supported activities and by adding resources to specialized technical areas, such as prevention for most-at-risk groups, outreach to street children and youth, and TB/HIV co-infection.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

- Increase HIV/AIDS awareness and lower the level of HIV/AIDS stigma and discrimination.
- Expand access to prevention, treatment, care and support services by most at-risk populations.
- Decrease rates of HIV/AIDS transmission.
- Build institutional capacity to deliver and manage HIV/AIDS services.

Health Program Obligations (FY 04-07)



Implementing Partners for HIV/AIDS:

- International HIV/AIDS Alliance in Ukraine
- Futures Group International, LLC
- Ukrainian Media Partnership

For more information, please contact USAID/Ukraine Development Outreach & Communications, tel. (380 44) 537 4600 or visit <http://ukraine.usaid.gov>

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PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

HIV/AIDS

USAID supported:

- Establishment of a National Council on TB and HIV/AIDS in 2006. The Council serves as one national coordination body and demonstrates Ukraine's commitment to fighting HIV/AIDS and TB and its willingness to involve civil society in the decision-making processes.
- Successful advocacy effort, which increased Ukraine's commitment to fighting HIV/AIDS. A presidential decree *On Additional Measures to Counteract HIV/AIDS in Ukraine* issued on December 12, 2007 emphasizes the need to allocate sufficient state funding for HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment and to make legislative reforms.
- Training of service providers in targeted regions, which improved the quality and availability of voluntary counseling and testing (VCT). Establishment of a VCT training curriculum at the National Medical Academy of Post-Graduate Education under the Ministry of Health has institutionalized VCT training for health professionals.
- Distribution of over 30.7 million condoms to service sites and NGOs to support HIV prevention efforts among vulnerable populations.
- Grants to HIV-service NGOs, which increased coverage of HIV prevention and information services to most at-risk populations from 12 percent in 2004 to 63 percent in 2008 in regions with the highest HIV prevalence rates.
- Establishment of 10 service sites in five regions to provide 300 HIV-positive injecting drug users with access to an integrated program of methadone-based Medication Assisted Treatment, and medical and social care and support.
- Training of over 400 public and nongovernmental representatives on strategic planning in HIV/AIDS programs, which strengthened regional capacity to plan, deliver and manage HIV/AIDS programs.
- Development of a network of master trainers, trainers and peer educators in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea (ARC) and Donetsk region, which reached 153,000 people with HIV/AIDS anti-stigma and discrimination messages, promoting positive behavioral changes and attitudes towards people living with HIV/AIDS.
- 480 community events including musicals, theater performances, debates, summer camps and photo exhibits, attended by 369,000 people, which increased knowledge of and tolerance towards people living with HIV/AIDS, reducing HIV/AIDS-associated stigma and discrimination.
- Placement of over 50 new and adapted radio and television public service announcements in 35 regional and national media, and training of over 180 journalists on the medical, social, economic and political aspects of HIV/AIDS, which raised awareness of HIV/AIDS issues and increased tolerance towards people living with HIV/AIDS.